

Iowa Department of Transportation  
Fiscal Year 2007  
Report of Savings by Using Video Conferencing  
Through Iowa Communications Network  
  
to the Iowa General Assembly

Pursuant to Chapter II 84  
Acts and Joint Resolutions  
Enacted at the  
1994 Regular Session  
of the 75th General Assembly  
of the State of Iowa

**Code section 8D.10**  
**Report of Savings by State Agencies**

January 2008

## **Introduction and summary**

Iowa Code section 8D.10 requires certain state agencies prepare an annual report to the General Assembly certifying the identified savings associated with that state agency's use of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

This report covers estimated cost savings related to video conferencing via ICN for the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT).

In FY 2007, the DOT conducted two sessions utilizing ICN's video conferencing system. These two sessions included DOT employees in Ames with non-DOT participants at remote ICN sites. Since the cost savings is calculated based on DOT staff savings, no cost savings from these conferences were gained because the public participants were attending from the ICN sites.

## **DOT video conferences**

The DOT has seven small video conference sites located at five of the six district offices, the administration building in Ames, and the Motor Vehicle Division's offices in Ankeny. Each year the DOT staff utilizes the ICN's classroom video sites or network for video conferences requiring more space or for conferences at locations where the DOT does not have video facilities.

When applicable, estimated cost savings from using the ICN result from applying estimates to savings in staff time and travel expenses (meals and mileage). The following are other benefits of video conferencing not included in the cost estimates.

- Broader participation by more people allowing for enhanced input and discussion.
- Timely sharing information via video conferences.
- Productive participation through visual sharing of materials during video conferences that is not an option offered when telephone conferencing.
- More productive relationships between central office participants and geographically dispersed customers.
- The ability to videotape meetings to share with others or keep as historical record.

## **Video conferencing costs**

The DOT reimburses ICN for a video conference session when the DOT is the scheduling agency or if there are special requirements such as the use of an ICN classroom. The DOT is not billed for ICN video conference sessions if the session was scheduled by another agency.

## **DOT cost savings in FY 2007**

No cost savings were calculated for this report because the attendees at the ICN site for the February 13, 2007, and March 13, 2007, sessions were non-DOT participants. The following chart details the cost for the DOT's use of ICN video conferencing in FY 2007.

**Appendix A**  
**Iowa Department of Transportation**  
 (Cost in whole dollars)

Length of Session Hours		Sites	Participants	Travel (Y/N)	Distance	Productivity	Lodging	Meals	Travel-IN	Other	Room Charge	ICN Cost	Savings	Y-T-D Savings
2/13/07	3	Interface B -Johnston	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0
	3	Davenport - CCI	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	0	0
			0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	106	0	
3/13/07	1	Interface A - Johnston	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
	1	Calmar - CCI	0	N	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
			0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	
Total			0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0

\*Community College 1